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NEWS

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"LUV" STARTS
AT UM JAN. 24

"Luv" will burst upon the Missoula theatrical scene this week in a bombshell concocted to amuse and entertain with an explosive idea which began as an experiment three years ago with the debut of the Montana Drama Quartet.

The third season of the Montana Drama Quartet will bring Murray Schisgal's slashing satire to the Masquer Theater this week for a five-day run beginning Wednesday (Jan. 24) at 8:15 p.m.

The professional actors who are in the quartet and the director are drawn from the faculty and staff of the UM department of drama.

Their choice of work has delighted audiences since the opening of the hit Broadway production directed by Mike Nichols. "Luv" pokes fun at the avant-garde and the rusted ideas of romance and marriage. Missoula theater patrons are in for a memorable experience.

The production is designed around the concept of part conventional theater and part readers' theater, according to Roger DeBourg, visiting lecturer of drama, who directs the play. DeBourg's production uses only the essentials and discards much of the scenery, stage properties and other traditional elements of a play.

The three characters in the play take on particular identities and, as they proceed to read the play, each character begins to involve himself more and more in the life of the character. As the play progresses, the level of involvement reaches such a pitch that the participants break the readers' theater design and more into a realistic presentation. Then, as suddenly as they escape from their stands and stools, they return to them.

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The costumes and sets have been designed accordingly to catch the satire of the play. Richard H. James, designer and associate professor with the department, designed the set and Suzanne Cook created the costumes.

"Regardless of the style of production," DeBourg says, "the script should transcend the techniques employed. The play, fast becoming a popular classic, slyly reveals the fun and games of an intellectual's married life."

In the UM Drama Quartet production, Milt Manville is played by Dr. Firman H. Brown, who, as chairman of the UM drama department, has introduced many other new drama concepts to Montana, including touring theater, oversees productions, a graduate program in drama at the University and this year the premier of the Montana Repertory Company.

Patricia Maxson, a graduate of the drama department and resident actress with the Montana Repertory Theater, portrays Ellen Manville.

Alan Cook, assistant professor in drama and associate director of the Montana Repertory Theater, portrays Harry Berlin. Cook has directed "The Devil's Disciple" for the MRT as his first dramatic effort in Montana. Cook joined the staff this fall after serving as instructor and director at Dixie College and Weber State College in Utah. Cook earned his master of fine arts degree in theater at the University of Utah.

The fun of "Luv" is largely in misery. Three impassioned characters meet and compare their unhappy childhoods, growing furious at the thought that anyone, anywhere, might have been more maltreated at nine, than they.

DeBourg has attempted to catch this misery in a half a hundred zany visual images that display the splendidly heartless disparity which comes to exist between the choked-up speeches the characters make and the noticeable fact that they don't mean a word of them. DeBourg said, "Sooner or later you know the three characters

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will end up in sorrow and agony, and the greater their misunderstandings and problems, the more you laugh."

DeBourg said he has tried to make his characters like a cartoon, antically animated, which do not have to struggle to say something because they contain-- within their comedy--the "Come off it!" that lately needs to be said.

The Masquer Box Office opens today and will be open daily from noon to 5 p.m. During the days of production, the Box Office will remain open through the curtain time of 8:15 p.m.

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